

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FACTS: ARIZONA



### DID YOU KNOW?

- ◇ **One in every four women** will experience domestic violence in her lifetime.<sup>1</sup> **One in 33 men** have experienced an attempted or completed rape.<sup>2</sup>
- ◇ An estimated 1.3 million women are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner each year.<sup>3</sup>
- ◇ The majority (73%) of family violence victims are female. Females were 84% of spousal abuse victims and 86% of abuse victims at the hands of a boyfriend.<sup>4</sup>
- ◇ The cost of intimate partner violence exceeds \$5.8 billion each year, \$4.1 billion of which is for direct medical and mental health services.<sup>5</sup>
- ◇ Boys who witness domestic violence are **twice as likely** to abuse their own partners and children when they become adults.<sup>6</sup>

### CHALLENGES

- Justice system professionals surveyed in a 2007 report on the Arizona criminal justice system's response to domestic violence agreed that offender accountability needs improvement. Those surveyed called for stronger sentences, better supervision and improved treatment programs.<sup>7</sup>
- There is a need for increased victim participation in the prosecution process. Recommendations for improving the system include educating victims on the criminal justice system, expanding victim services, and incorporating victims in each stage of the process.<sup>7</sup>

### STATEMENTS FROM SERVICE PROVIDERS

*"I am proud to say that domestic-violence shelter services are now available for every county in Arizona for the first time. In total, more than 1,000 emergency shelter beds are available at 37 shelters throughout the state."*

-Janet Napolitano, Governor<sup>8</sup>

*"Consequences for domestic violence offenses are far too lenient, with many offenders being released the next day to then further harass and terrorize their victim, who often must flee their own home in order to be safe."*

- Advocate, Local Program<sup>7</sup>

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT IN ARIZONA

- Domestic violence cases processed through the Arizona justice system typically involve a misdemeanor assault, punishable by a maximum of six months in jail.<sup>7</sup>
- In Arizona, one forcible rape occurs every four hours and 53 minutes.<sup>9</sup>
- 1,797 forcible rapes were reported in Arizona in 2007.<sup>9</sup>
- 11% of these forcible rape offenders were arrested.<sup>9</sup>
- 33 children were assaulted by family members in 2006.<sup>9</sup>
- Every 44 minutes in Arizona, one or more children witness a domestic violence incident.<sup>10</sup>
- There were 125 domestic violence fatalities in 2007, and 52 have already occurred in 2008.<sup>10</sup>

### STATE RESOURCES

**The Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence<sup>11</sup>**  
[www.azcadv.org](http://www.azcadv.org)

- ◇ The Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence (AZCADV) is a member-based, non-profit organization dedicated to ending domestic violence in Arizona through leadership, advocacy, and education. AZCADV maintains a variety of specialized committees, including committees on the following: Health Issues, Communities of Color, PRISM (LGBT Community), Legislative, Legal, and Residential Programs.

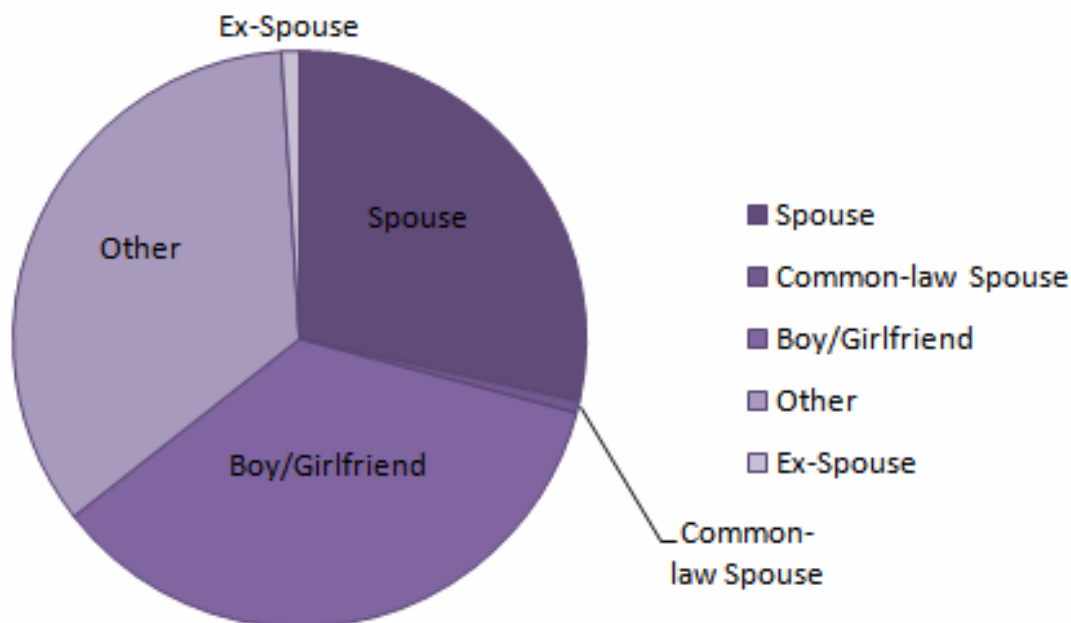
**Arizona Sexual Assault Network<sup>12</sup>**  
[www.arizonasexualassaultnetwork.org](http://www.arizonasexualassaultnetwork.org)

- ◇ The Arizona Sexual Assault Network (AzSAN) works to identify and address sexual violence through a statewide network of sexual assault coalitions.

For more information or to get help, please contact the  
**Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence at 1-800-782-6400**

The National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE  
 The National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1-800-656-HOPE

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ASSAULTS BY RELATIONSHIP IN 2006<sup>9</sup>



## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CONVICTION RATES IN 2006<sup>9</sup>

### MORE THAN HALF OF DV MISDEMEANORS WERE DISMISSED

Most serious disposition	JP court		Municipal court		Total*	
	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
Guilty	51%	(951)	42%	(2,788)	44%	(3,739)
Acquittal	1%	(21)	1%	(43)	1%	(64)
Dismissed	46%	(855)	57%	(3,845)	55%	(4,700)
Transferred out	2%	(34)	0%	(19)	1%	(53)
Other	1%	(13)	0%	(3)	0%	(16)
Total*	100%	(1,874)	100%	(6,698)	100%	(8,572)

### DV CASES HAVE A LOWER CONVICTION RATE THAN COMPARABLE NON-DV CASES

Most serious disposition	JP court		Municipal court		Total	
	Non-DV	DV	Non-DV	DV	Non-DV	DV
Guilty	54%	51%	52%	42%	53%	44%
Acquittal	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%
Dismissed	39%	46%	47%	57%	45%	55%
Transfer	5%	2%	0%	0%	1%	1%
Other	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Source: Arizona Administrative Office of the Courts, 2007.

## SOURCES

<sup>1</sup>Tjaden, Patricia & Thoennes, Nancy. National Institute of Justice and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, "Extent, Nature and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey," (2000).

<sup>2</sup>U.S. Department of Justice, "Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women," November 1998.

<sup>3</sup>Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States. 2003. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Centers for Injury Prevention and Control. Atlanta, GA.

<sup>4</sup>U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Family Violence Statistics," June 2005.

<sup>5</sup>Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States. 2003. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Centers for Injury Prevention and Control. Atlanta, GA.

<sup>6</sup>Strauss, Gelles, and Smith, "Physical Violence in American Families: Risk Factors and Adaptations to Violence" in *8,145 Families*. Transaction Publishers (1990).

<sup>7</sup>Morrison Institute for Public Policy, Arizona State University, "System Alert: Arizona's Criminal Justice Response to Domestic Violence," October 2007.

<sup>8</sup>Napolitano, Janet. "State Response: Arizona Governor Pursues Plan Against Domestic Violence," The Arizona Republic. Retrieved October 26, 2007, from <http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/viewpoints/articles/1021napolitano1021.html>.

<sup>9</sup>Arizona Department of Public Safety, Access Integrity Unit, "Crime in Arizona 2006." Retrieved October 26, 2007, from [http://www.azdps.gov/crimereport/2007\\_Crime\\_In\\_Arizona.pdf](http://www.azdps.gov/crimereport/2007_Crime_In_Arizona.pdf).

<sup>10</sup>Tucson Centers for Women and Children. Statistics of Abuse. Retrieved October 31, 2007, from <http://www.tusconcenters.com/stats.htm>.

<sup>11</sup>The Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence. About AzCADV. Retrieved October 26, 2007, from [www.azcadv.org](http://www.azcadv.org).

<sup>12</sup>Arizona Sexual Assault Network. About AzSAN. Retrieved October 26, 2007, from <http://www.azsan.org/mission.htm>.

NATIONAL COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



The Public Policy Office of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) is a national leader in the effort to create and influence Federal legislation that positively affects the lives of domestic violence victims and children. We work closely with advocates at the local, state and national level to identify the issues facing domestic violence victims, their children and the people who serve them and to develop a legislative agenda to address these issues. NCADV welcomes you to join us in our effort to end domestic violence.